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Testimony of  
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Submitted to Housing Committee  
February 19, 2013

**SENATE BILLS 24 & 338** AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP ON THE  
INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**SUPPORT**

*Conn-NAHRO is the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, the Connecticut Chapter represents over 112 Connecticut housing authorities and other non-profit and community development member agencies. Member agencies have the responsibility of effectively managing or administering housing for 150,000 families/individuals and over 62,000 housing units in Connecticut.*

Speaking on behalf of Conn-NAHRO's Executive Board and member agencies, I would like to express our strong support for S.B. 24 & S.B. 338 which would expand the membership of the Interagency Council on Affordable Housing.

The Interagency Council on Affordable Housing is charged with developing strategies and recommendations for the implementation of the Department of Housing including the statutory requirement to: (1) Assess the housing needs of low income individuals and families; (2) review and analyze the effectiveness of existing state programs in meeting those needs; (3) identify barriers to effective housing delivery systems; and (4) develop strategies and recommendations to enhance the availability of safe and affordable housing in communities across the state through the Department of Housing.

The strategies and recommendations of the council will make a significant impact on the shape of Connecticut's affordable housing policy for years to come. The Council's legislative charge requires input from stakeholders across the affordable housing industry to allow for successful holistic recommendations that address the entire spectrum of affordable housing.

Many key stakeholders including developers, housing authorities, for-profit and non-profit managers, bankers and realtors to mention a few, are not members of the current interagency council on affordable housing. While the current council

contains several important members of the affordable housing industry, we believe it lacks the balance to effectively produce the recommendations it is charged with creating.

The "Report of the Interagency Council on Affordable Housing" was provided the legislature on January 15, 2013. The report makes the recommendation to add Conn-NAHRO to the membership of the Council. We strongly support this recommendation. Conn-NAHRO also urges the legislature to further expand the membership to include representation from other key stakeholders including developers and investors.

Therefore we support SB 24 and SB 338.